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THE WORK OF MUSEUMS IN WAR TIME—II

By HARLAN I. SMITH

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, OTTAWA, CANADA

VISITORS

IN peace times most visitors come for recreation. The report to the British Government Committee on the Health of Munition Workers states that observations for a year on the output of workers employed in making fuses showed that a reduction of working hours was associated with an increase of production both relative and absolute. Generally, the cumulative effects of fatigue neutralize and overpower efficiency produced by practise. In the absence of rest and recreation the fatigued worker has no opportunity for complete recuperation

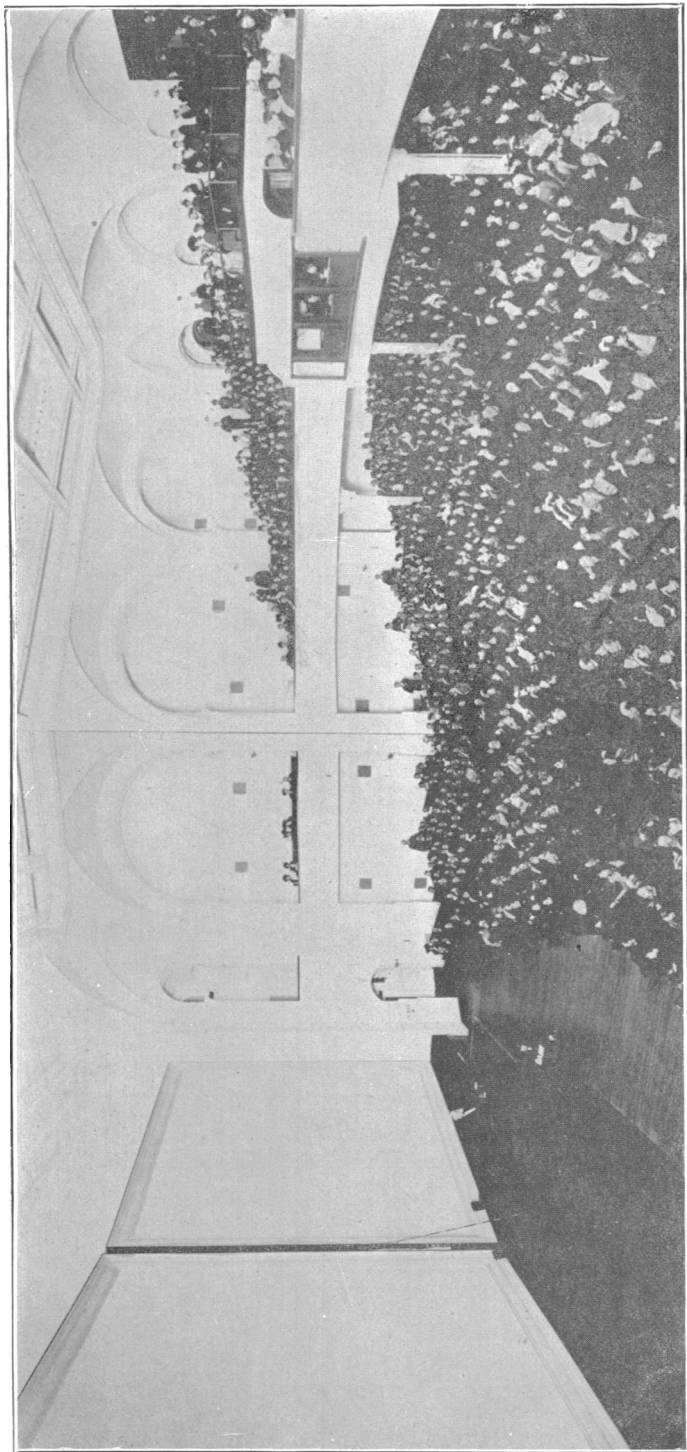


TAKING MOVING PICTURES OF BIRDS ON AN EXPEDITION OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, CANADA.

and his output, though more uniform, remains permanently at a lower level than that shown by a worker who has had rest and recreation.

Some museums are devoted entirely to recreation, but never-

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MUSEUMS LIKE UNIVERSITIES HAVE LECTURE HALLS AND VAST AUDIENCES USE THEM. In the American Museum of Natural History. They may be well used in war time.

theless all the exhibits are instructive. Recreation now is especially necessary to relieve as much as possible the unnatural strain on both civilians and soldiers. Properly administered museums not only furnish this healthful distraction but at the same time can also instruct and inspire.

MUSEUM LECTURES

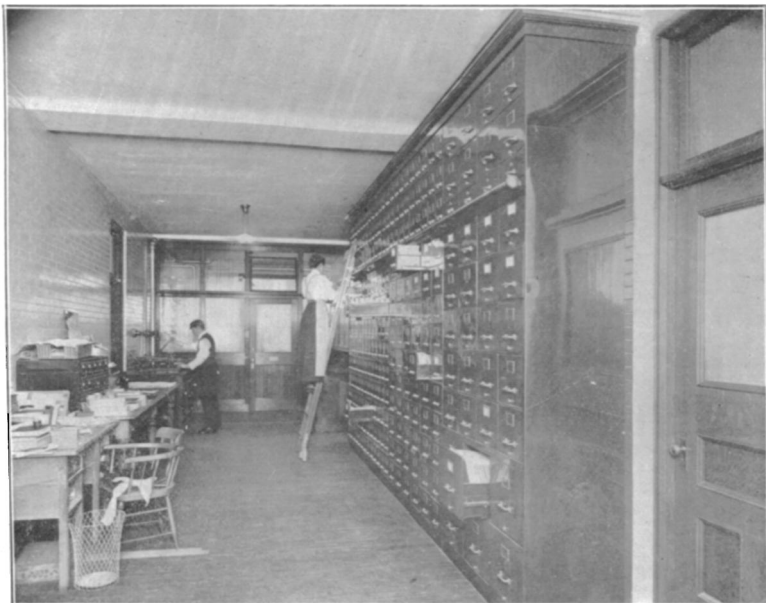
Museums like universities have lecture halls and vast audiences use them in ordinary times. In war time these and their illustrative apparatus for projecting lantern pictures and moving pictures may be well used not only for war-time publicity but also for giving recreation or instruction. The instructive lectures may be given to the forces being trained and to convalescent returned soldiers who are unable to carry on their former occupations and who need a new means of livelihood. The recreative lectures may be given to ease convalescent suffering. The moving pictures, of such cheering subjects foreign to war and its frightfulness as birds, photographed on expeditions, would serve well for this purpose. They would reach men who came to realize while lying wounded how sweet life and nature are when compared with the sordid rush for mere money.

MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPHY

Thousands of negatives, prints, maps and lantern slides are made by the Photographic Division in the Museum of the Geological Survey, Canada. The lantern slides are used in the lecture hall and are loaned throughout Canada. This work is also done in many other museums and is part of the education needed to make a people efficient in the arts of warfare and in those necessary behind the lines as well as always needed in the arts of peace. The museum workers who make and use these materials, often taking photographs under difficult situations resembling some war conditions, are fitted to assist in developing new war-time photographic necessities such as are used by the flying corps in making photographic maps, detecting camouflage, etc., and that are absolutely necessary for the protection of an army as well as the destruction of its adversary. These workers are also better qualified than the average photographers to become teachers of such photographic work to the fighting forces.

MUSEUM VISITORS FUTURE SOLDIERS

Classes of high-school children who in peace times marched to the lecture halls of the great museums grew up during the



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CLASSES OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN LINE OF MARCH TO THE LECTURE HALL OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

continuation of the world war and contributed many men and officers to all branches of the fighting forces. Over seven thousand school children came to hear one lecture. This shows that the work of teaching school children in the regular subjects which are of use in war time must continue with increased efficiency during war so that suitably trained material may always be available. No one ever knows how long a war may



OVER 7,000 CHILDREN CAME TO HEAR ONE LECTURE IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

last. Even exhibits of objects connected with the war, such as guns and shells, may be used in a series to attract children to exhibits instructing them in regular studies such as history and physics, which will always be needed by both the citizens and soldiers of a country at war.

TEMPORARY AND LOAN EXHIBITS

Museums loan space for horticultural and other temporary exhibits. These are placed sometimes for one or two days around permanent exhibits. In war time some museums loan space for war-time exhibits. For instance, the American Museum has had special war-time exhibits of food and health in war and peace. A popular handbook was issued for this exhibit for sale at the news stands. Both were especially prepared for



EVEN MUSEUM GROUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SOCIAL USE. Folk dances are held by the children on the lawn of the American Museum of Natural History. In war time this ground is used for drilling.

the use of soldiers. All the museums of the country might well loan space for the exhibition of loan exhibits from the Food Controller. In June, 1917, Red Cross Week was held in the Museum at Newark, N. J., and a complete set of Red Cross supplies, conforming in every respect to the latest specifications of the American Red Cross, was exhibited. It included hospital linen and supplies, surgical dressings, operating-room supplies,



MUSEUMS LOAN SPACE FOR HORTICULTURAL AND OTHER TEMPORARY EXHIBITS IN PEACE TIME. These are placed for one or two days around permanent museum exhibits in the American Museum of Natural History. In war time this museum provided space for war-time exhibits.

and linen, patients' clothing and such supplies as the Red Cross furnishes to the army and navy. A similar temporary exhibit including models and pictures was made in the U. S. National Museum.³

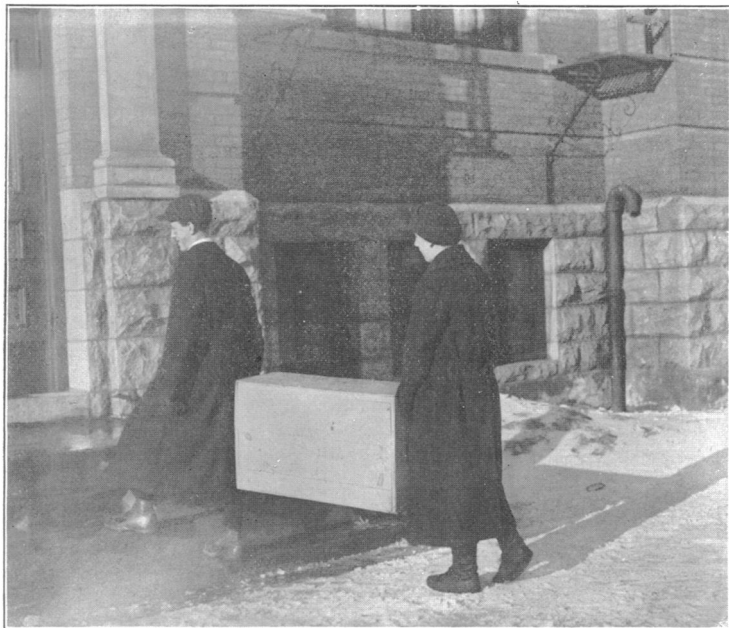
The windows and the glass of the cases in the Provincial Museum at Halifax were broken by the terrific explosion of the munition ship that blew up in the harbor. A water pipe burst and snow stormed into the museum, so in this emergency museum work was stopped and the cases were covered with boards and used as tables for Red Cross and other relief supplies.

Museums have aided in the food-conservation campaign of the United States National Emergency Food Garden Commis-

³ Cf. U. S. N. M. Rep. 1916, p. 121.



EXHIBITS ARE PUT IN TRAVELLING CASES TO BE SENT FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL IN OTTAWA.

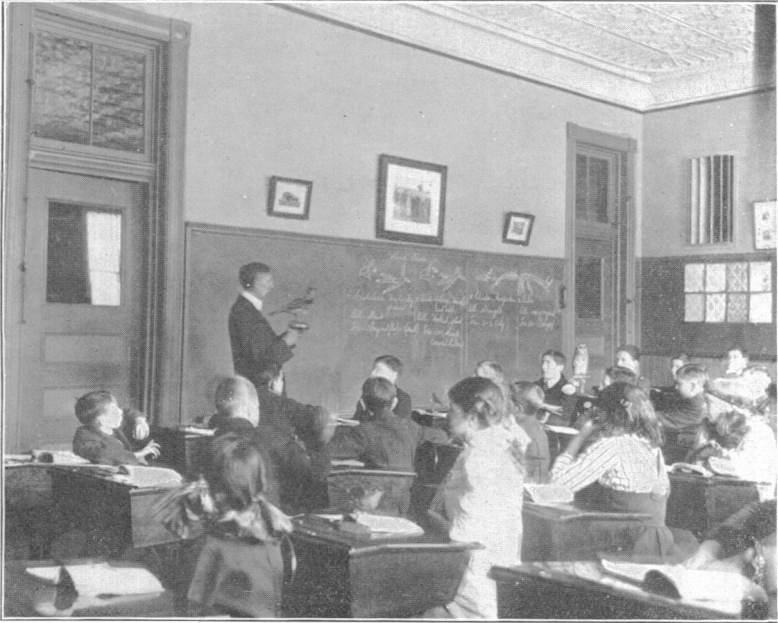


SCHOOL BOYS CARRY THE MUSEUM TRAVELLING EXHIBITS FROM ONE SCHOOL TO THE NEXT IN OTTAWA.

sion by distributing to visitors quantities of manuals attractively illustrated and printed. This material and other literature were placed with the "help yourself" cards where visitors to the museums readily see and take them.

MUSEUM GROUNDS

Even museum grounds are available for war service as well as social service. Folk dances were held in peace times by

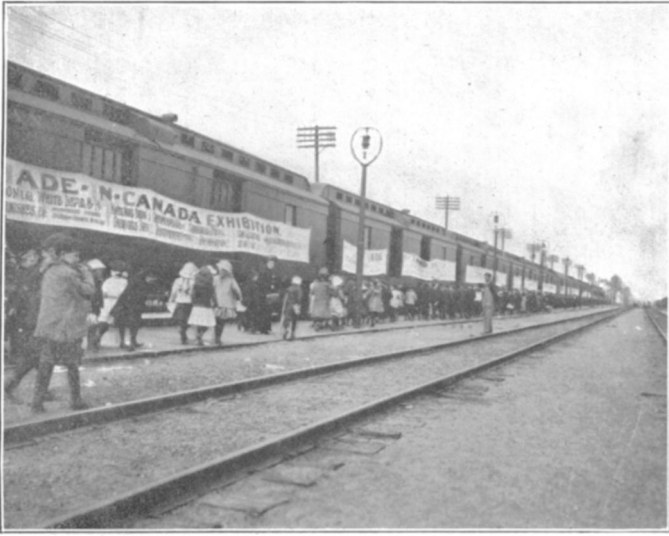


TRAVELLING EXHIBITS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ARE USED IN THE SCHOOLS OF OTTAWA.

the children on the lawn of the American Museum of Natural History, but, after the United States entered the war, the grounds were used for drilling. The Brooklyn Museum grounds were planted by the museum workers and considerable food was raised by them.

TRAVELLING MUSEUMS

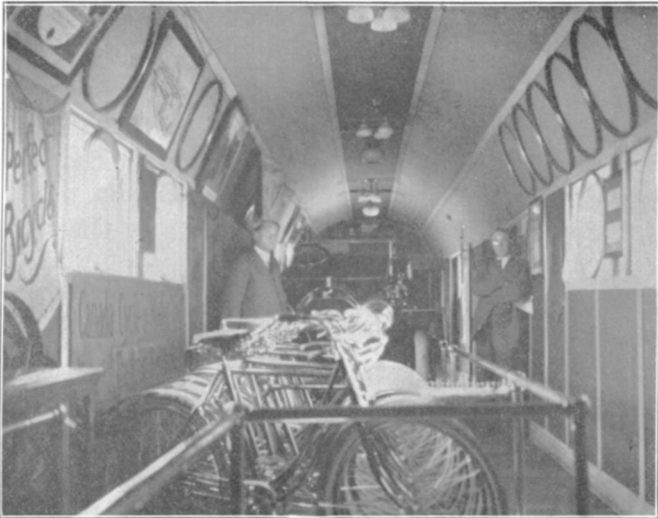
Exhibits are put up in travelling cases to be sent from school to school in Ottawa, St. Louis, Chicago, New York, and other places. School boys carry the museum travelling exhibits from one school to the next in Ottawa, while in St. Louis, New York, and Chicago, this system of museum extension has grown



A COMMERCIAL MUSEUM ON WHEELS. The "Made in Canada Special."

so in recent years that a special auto delivery van is used for the purpose.

The St. Louis Public School Museum makes as many as thirty deliveries of such exhibits in a single day. It delivered 66,810 separately boxed groups of material to the schools during the school year 1916-1917, and has called into service an additional delivery truck. Every public-school teacher of St. Louis is welcomed to select from the new catalogue and order the



COMMERCIAL EXHIBIT IN THE "MADE IN CANADA SPECIAL" RAILWAY TRAIN.

collections she can best use to illustrate the various lessons planned for the week. The delivery trucks serve every school once a week, collecting the material previously delivered and depositing the material ordered for the current week. The entire annual expense to the Board of Education of all this museum work, including overhead expenses, salaries, delivery service, and additions to the collections, averages about 14 cents per pupil served. This method serves the country in



THE CROWD VISITING THE COMMERCIAL MUSEUM IN THE "MADE IN CANADA SPECIAL" RAILWAY TRAIN.

war time as does other educational endeavor, and may be applied to distributing special war-time instruction to schools, the public and the fighting forces.

A commercial museum on wheels, the "Made in Canada Special," carrying commercial exhibits on a railway train across Canada in peaceful years, was visited by crowds. The same means provides opportunity to spread useful war-time knowledge regarding conservation of food and fuel, the speeding up of necessary industries, the making of munitions, political propaganda as in the exhibition of captured guns, and the training of fighters. In the United States a Food Control exhibit has been installed in a railroad car.

MUSEUM EXTENSION

For years minerals have been given to Canadian schools by the Geological Survey, Canada. A covered tray containing

an elementary series is sent to the elementary schools, but cabinets containing five drawers to higher schools. Exhibits of things relating to war can be handled in the same way.



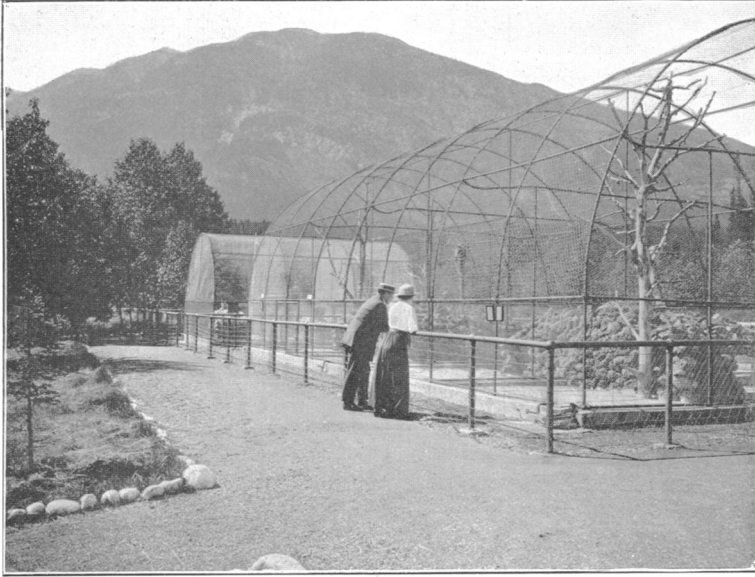
FOR YEARS MINERALS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO CANADIAN SCHOOLS BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. A covered tray containing an elementary series is sent to the elementary schools; cabinets, containing five drawers, to higher schools.

COOPERATIVE LABELLING

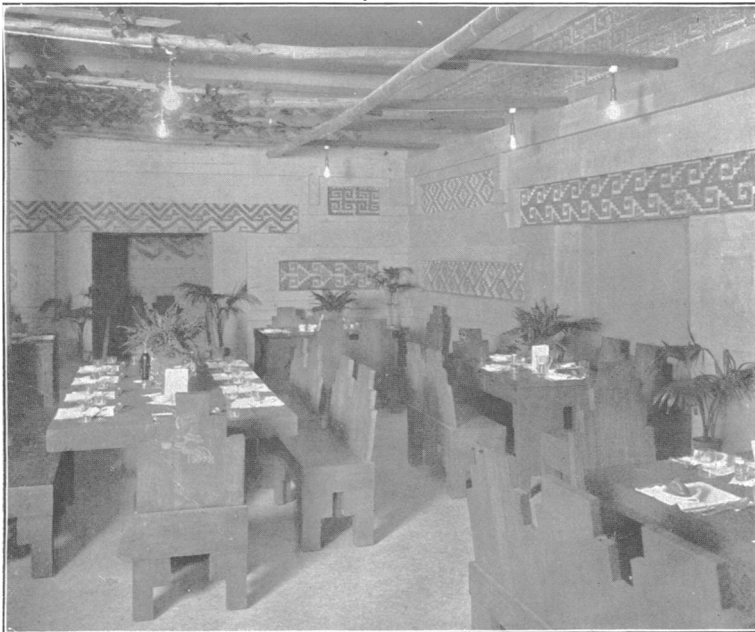
Encyclopedic species labels were prepared as the text of the Handbook of the Rocky Mountains Park Museum by the Dominion Government and have already been used by eighteen different museums, the Rocky Mountains Park Zoo, and for several other educational purposes. Lantern slides have been made to illustrate some of them and these labels can consequently also be used as lecture notes. They need only to be shuffled when it is required to rearrange a lecture. The same method may be employed by the museums in supplying information needed by a nation at war.

RESTAURANTS

In large cities it is sometimes desirable to provide a restaurant in a museum so that students or other visitors may not have to go out. In the American Museum of Natural History, the restaurant is modelled after the ancient Mexican ruin of



ENCYCLOPEDIA SPECIES LABEL IN THE ZOO OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS PARK prepared as the text of the Handbook of the Rocky Mountains Park Museum by the Dominion Government, and already used by seventeen other museums and for several other educational purposes.



RESTAURANT IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. This is modelled after the ancient Mexican ruin of Mitla.

Mitla and, therefore, is an exhibit as well as a restaurant. In war time such restaurants should be made available to soldiers, sailors, and others engaged in activities of defense.

CONCLUSION

If the museum fraternity does not rise to the occasion and at least adjust itself to meet war needs and help the general progress of the world other agencies will take over what should be the most important part of museum activities. For instance, the Canadian department of Trade and Commerce opened a museum in January because of the need of such a museum in war time. Those in charge were not recruited from among museum men. The children's museums, which are at present apparently the chief hot beds of new museum ideas, are being made such by persons not formerly connected with museums. It was two boys who were trained in the Children's Museum in Brooklyn who sent and received the first wireless telephone message from Paris to Hawaii.

Now, when the young and active men from the small towns and the country districts of the whole world are passing through the great centers of culture such as London, New York and Paris, or are visiting them on leave of absence, is the very time when museums should be most active in entertaining, instructing, or offsetting the vicious experiences of the war. The cream of New Zealand, Australia, India, Canada, and many allied nations, gathers in London. What better time than now for the museums to offer these men attraction, recreation and instruction, and an inspiration to carry home to the individual corners of the world the seeds of the world's best fruits? Museum work, instead of being curtailed, should certainly be directed towards doing in war time its part both in fighting the war and in making up for the evils and deprivations caused by it.